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PRESS CARRIES LEADERS' SUPREME SOVIET

ELECTION SPEECHES

PART V

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Kunayev in Alma-Ata

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[Apparent text of speech delivered by D.A. Kunayev in Alma-Ata at 19 February USSR Supreme Soviet Election meeting with the voters of Alma-Ata Leninskiy Electoral Okrug No 617]

[Text] Dear comrades! First of all permit me to express most heartfelt gratitude to all the collectives of working people which have nominated me as USSR Supreme Soviet candidate deputy and have placed in me their confidence--which is not only a great honor but also means a very great responsibility toward the party and people. (prolonged applause)

All the comrades who have spoken here have talked with great appreciation about the tremendous work of the CPSU Central Committee and its Politburo, of the Soviet Government and of Leonid Ilich Brezhnev personally, to further boost the motherland's economic might, enhance the Soviet people's material and spiritual living standards and to strengthen world peace. This convincingly confirms the growing prestige of our party, the boundless trust placed in it, the unanimous support by all the people for its domestic and foreign policy, and the monolithic unity of the party and people. (prolonged applause)

Many kind words have also been spoken about me from this platform. Permit me to cordially thank the comrades who have spoken for their warmth and kindness toward me and also, through you, to thank the voters of Alma-Ata Leninsky Electoral Okrug who are nominating me--not for the first time--as candidate deputy to the country's supreme organ of power. (prolonged applause)

I wholly and completely attribute this trust and kindness to the glorious Communist Party, which always reflects fully and accurately the interests and aspirations of all the Soviet people. This is why there is no more noble aim in life than to serve the cause of the party and people, to which I shall continue to devote my strength, experience and knowledge. (prolonged applause)

Comrades! It is vividly and convincingly clear from the CPSU Central Committee address to all USSR voters and citizens how magnificent are the historic attainments of the party and people in the period between the elections.

This political platform of the party's precisely defines the tasks involved in insuring the continued growth of the country's economic potential, enhancing social production efficiency and the Soviet people's well-being, and strengthening world peace.

During the time since the previous elections the 25th CPSU Congress, which laid down the main directions of building communism at the present stage, was a very important event in the life of the party and country.

With all progressive mankind, our country celebrated the 60th anniversary of the Great October Revolution, which pointed out to the peoples of the world the only true path--the path of the great Lenin.

An outstanding document of the epoch was the new USSR Constitution, which showed the whole world the concrete advantages of real socialism and once again vividly confirmed that our system reliably guarantees people's civil and political equality and genuine freedom for the individual.

Putting into practice the 25th CPSU Congress decisions confidently and according to plan, the country has secured a mighty new surge in the economy, science and culture, a steady rise in the people's material and spiritual standards and the further strengthening of defense capability.

Many new enterprises equipped in full accordance with the requirements of the scientific and technical revolution have been commissioned and have joined those already in operation. New industrial territorial and production complexes have been formed. Fixed production capital has increased by more than one-third. Over this period the USSR's national income has increased 24 percent.

Now, more than ever before, our country has at its disposal everything necessary to proceed confidently forward toward the new heights mapped out by the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress and of subsequent party Central Committee plenums.

Our powerful multisector industry is dynamically developing, fulfilling and overfulfilling the plan targets. Its volume of production is increasing steadily, and qualitative indicators are being improved everywhere. And here the bulk of the total increase in production is being achieved through increased labor productivity.

The long-term comprehensive program for agricultural development which was drawn up at the CPSU Central Committee July (1978) Plenum is being successfully implemented. Strenuous work is underway everywhere to further boost agriculture and all sectors of sovkhoz and kolkhoz production.

Last year's record grain harvest is one of the most convincing results of this. The production of vegetables, potatoes and industrial crops has also increased. Positive improvements have also occurred in the most difficult sector--livestock raising. Gratifying changes can be observed everywhere in the countryside which convincingly confirm the wisdom and high effectiveness of our own dear party's agrarian policy.

Capital construction is being performed on an unprecedented scale throughout the country and all forms of transport and communications are developing.

The party's social program drawn up by the 25th CPSU Congress is being successfully implemented on the basis of the all-round development of the entire USSR's multisector economy. The world can see that the chief element in our party's policy is its loyal and unselfish service of the working people's interests. (prolonged applause)

The life of each Soviet family has become richer and fuller in both material and spiritual respects. The party's concern about satisfying as fully as possible the growing material and spiritual needs of Soviet society has always been specific and purposeful. Our society, which is creating communism, needs thinking and socially active citizens who are deeply educated in the ideas of Soviet patriotism and socialist internationalism and who are always, and in everything, loyal to these ideas.

Constant concern for children, working women, veterans of the revolution, war and labor, and for our glorious young people has become an immutable law of our society. (prolonged applause)

Soviet scientists and literary and artistic personalities have gratified the motherland with new successes.

The heroic efforts of all the Soviet peoples are today fittingly completing the building of a developed socialist society in the USSR, where the development of the unified economy of the whole country has reached a high level. This economy comprises the national economies of all the union republics and it is developing in accordance with the unified state plan in the interests of the whole country and of each individual republic. It is thanks only to the multinational Soviet state that the peoples of our country have at their disposal the broadest opportunities for the further all-round development of the economy, science and culture, and for the further rapprochement and prosperity of the Soviet socialist nations. (prolonged applause)

The international prestige of our great motherland and of the entire socialist community is higher now than ever. Their growing prestige in spheres of political, economic, ideological and diplomatic activity is strong, and the forces of world socialism and of genuine social progress is growing stronger day by day.

All this and much more animates the present with the great correctness of Leninist ideals and generates a legitimate feeling of pride in our motherland and the entire socialist community, in our multinational and united Soviet people, and in Lenin's party to which all of us are indebted for our successes--both those already achieved and those which will undoubtedly be achieved in the future along our great road of building communism. (prolonged applause)

Casting our minds back over the path we have traveled and looking at the prospects of our future progress, we are aware that all these achievements are linked with the exceptionally fruitful direction and organizational activity of the CPSU's Leninist Central Committee and of its Politburo headed by Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, outstanding politician and statesman of the present time and tireless fighter for peace, communism and the happiness of all progressive mankind. (prolonged applause)

The working people of Kazakhstan and all Soviet people, unanimously approving the domestic and foreign policy of our own dear party, have named Leonid Ilich as their first candidate for deputy in the country's supreme organ of power. (prolonged applause)

Comrades! In the united fraternal family of Soviet peoples, multinational Kazakhstan is marching along the road of constant renewal and prosperity; it is a region of developed virgin land, unique industrial giants and inexhaustible mineral resources--a region of remarkable workers where Lenin's dream has been translated into reality, Kazakhstan's present-day reality. Kazakhstan's present-day reality impressively reflects the whole scale and dynamism of the economic and spiritual might of our motherland--the USSR. (applause)

Augmenting the successes of past years, Kazakhstan now confidently occupies one of the leading places in the country in terms of the volume of industrial and agricultural production.

If we speak of the period between the elections, then the main indicator of the republic's economic growth--national income--has increased 14 percent. More than R35 billion has been invested in the development of the economy. The republic has never before known such volumes of capital investment.

In accordance with the decisions of the 25th CPSU and 14th Kazakhstan CP congresses, special attention is being devoted to the further development of the power industry, ferrous and nonferrous metallurgy, machinebuilding and the coal, petroleum, chemical, food and light industries. The complexion of each of the republic's 19 oblasts has altered beyond recognition over this period. The unique Pavlodar-Ekibastuz, Karatau-Dzhambul, Mangyshlak and other territorial-production complexes are developing successfully, and that is promoting the rapid rise of quantitative and qualitative indicators relating to Kazakhstan's multisector industry.

Over these years 220 new industrial enterprises, large shops and production units have been commissioned. Among the enterprises commissioned are large plants like the Kazakhskiy gas processing plant on the Mangyshlak Plateau, the Karaganda TETs-3, and the Ust-Kamenogorsk spinning and weaving and Semipalatinsk worsted fabric spinning factories.

In his recent greetings, Leonid Ilich Brezhnev particularly noted two outstanding labor victories of the people of Kazakhstan--the commissioning of the Pavlodar oil refinery and of the first stage of the Novo-Dzhambulskiy phosphorus plant.

Leading enterprises of the republic's light, food, meat and dairy industries are confidently increasing their capacities, expanding their range of output and enhancing its quality. Each year our industry sells output worth hundreds of millions of rubles over and above the plan. The republic now produces more in one month than it produced in the whole of 1950.

Thanks to the successful implementation of the party's agrarian policy, Kazakhstan has confidently consolidated its role as one of the country's leading grain and livestock centers. Despite difficult climatic conditions the republic has, in the current 5-year plan period alone, gratified the motherland with a billion poods of Kazakhstan grain on two occasions. (prolonged applause)

The creation of vast new rice-growing zones in Kzyl-Ordinskaya, Chimkentskaya and Alma-Atinskaya oblasts has transformed the republic into a major rice producer. The enhanced return from irrigated land which has been achieved primarily through the construction underway on a large scale, of irrigation and land reclamation projects and through the further improvement of agrotechnical practices has also made it possible to considerably increase the production and sale to the state of potatoes, vegetables, melon crops, fruits, berries and industrial crops. Executing the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress and implementing Comrade L.I. Brezhnev's advice and instructions, we are continuing land reclamation work. For example, the fullest possible use of the unique 500 km Irtysh-Kraaganda canal, which is to be extended to Dzhezkazgan, the building of major aqueducts in the virgin lands, and the reclamation of large new tracts of land in the southern oblasts are of great significance both for the republic's agriculture and for its industry.

Positive changes are also taking place in livestock-raising. The number of publicly-owned cattle and poultry in the republic has increased, as has the productiveness of livestock. On the basis of the intensifying process of agricultural production specialization and concentration, the further strengthening of its material and technical base and the overall growth of energy availability, the return on all sectors of the republic's agriculture is on the whole increasing considerably.

The development of the virgin and long-fallow lands was a historic stage in Kazakhstan's new rapid all-round growth. To use Leonid Ilich Brezhnev's words, millions of Soviet people in the virgin lands continued to perform the experiment of the revolution, augmented its gains under new historical conditions, and created living experience of the victorious building of developed socialism. (prolonged applause)

We, the people of Kazakhstan are proud that in those unforgettable years the republic's party organization, and the exceptionally large-scale and labor-intensive work on opening up lands uninhabited for centuries, were headed by Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, the outstanding strategist of the virgin land epic and its organizer and inspirer. (prolonged applause)

The day is not far off when the glorious 25th anniversary of the virgin lands will be celebrated. And you and I are quite rightly and with sincerity and gratitude citing among our remarkable heroic virgin-land pioneers the name of Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, author of "The Virgin Lands" with a capital T, capital V, and capital L, whose very rich experience, political perspicacity, initiative and energy attracted a following of millions of people, to the glory of the great labor cause which, together with the conquest of space, has become a real mark of our epoch. (prolonged applause)

The virgin lands have transformed Soviet Kazakhstan into a region with a powerful multisector industry and have given new impetus to the unprecedented development of the republic's science and culture and multi-genre art, which is now well-known far beyond the republic's boundaries. (prolonged applause)

On two occasions during this 5-year plan period--in 1976 and 1978--the republic has been awarded a CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Ministers, AUCCTU and Komsomol Central Committee Challenge Red Banner for successes in the development of the national economy.

On the basis of last year's results these banners were also awarded to 5 of our oblasts, 5 cities, 19 rayons, and 75 enterprises and farms. As you know, Alma-Ata city and Alma-Atinskaya Oblast figure among the recipients of the awards. (prolonged applause)

Permit me to cordially congratulate you on this high and well-deserved assessment of your labor. (prolonged applause)

The dynamic development of the economy and the appreciable enhancement of its efficiency have made it possible to carry out in the republic, just as throughout the country, broad social development measures, and above all measures for substantially enhancing the working people's standard of living.

Since the last elections, real per capita incomes have increased 22 percent. The size of many pensions and benefits has increased. Additional allowances have been fixed for Great Patriotic War invalids and for the families of servicemen who perished. Social insurance has been improved.

Since the last elections almost one-fourth of Kazakhstan's population has moved into new accomodations or has considerably improved its housing conditions. This is a good indicator. (applause) The increase in urban housing stocks over the period between the elections was in excess of 15 million square meters, which is equivalent to the entire housing stock, the year before last, of such cities as Chimkent, Ust-Kamenogorsk, Petropavlosk and Karaganda put together.

The network of trade, public catering and consumer services enterprises is growing year by year. The network of medical treatment and health establishments and children's preschool institutions has expanded. Public education, science and culture have developed further.

Among the new VUZes opened in the republic are the Dzhezkazgan Teaching Institute, the Rudnyy Industrial Institute, the Kustanay Agricultural Institute, the Tyubink Higher School of Flying, and others. The number of secondary specialized educational establishments has increased by 18 over this period. We now have 53 VUZes and 223 secondary specialized educational establishments. As you can see, this growth is impressive.

What has been done between the elections is the logical result of comprehensive, well-coordinated work and the Soviet way of life, for which unity, fraternity and inviolable friendship among the peoples have become the norm. (prolonged applause)

The labor and talent, knowledge and experience of all Soviet people are materialized in our economic and spiritual life. The entire multifaceted life of our peoples, to quote V.I. Lenin, "is linked together by millions and millions of threads of an economic, legal, and everyday nature." Thanks to its inviolable friendship with the great Russian people and with all the fraternal peoples of the country, Soviet Kazakhstan's star has now begun to shine even more brightly. (prolonged applause)

The Kazakh people and all the working people of our multinational republic will continue tirelessly to cherish, and use all their effort to strengthen this friendship as one of the priceless gains of the Great October Revolution--for the sake of the complete triumph of the ideals of communism. (prolonged applause)

The worker, kolkhoz member, engineer, technician, scientist, teacher, people of the older generations and our remarkable young people always put their heart, soul and labor into each good cause of ours.

This is why I should like, on behalf of the Kazakhstan CP Central Committee, to warmly wish the republic's working class, its kolkhoz peasantry, people's intelligentsia, each of our labor collectives and all of you, dear comrades, considerable new achievements in the noble cause of communist creation and successful implementation of the 25th CPSU Congress and 14th Kazakhstan CP Congress decisions. (prolonged applause)

Comrades, meetings between voters and candidate deputies in our country have a good tradition whereby a businesslike and principled discussion takes place not only about what we have achieved but also about what we still have to do. While paying due tribute to what has been achieved, we must today assess what we have done primarily from the positions of the CPSU Central Committee November (1978) Plenum and Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev's advice and instructions.

The working people of the republic's collectives, rayons and oblasts have adopted lofty socialist pledges and counterplans for the current year. Their fulfillment and overfulfillment will be of decisive significance for the successful completion of the whole 5-year plan and for further strengthening the country's economic and defensive might.

We are now faced with new and even more crucial tasks. Briefly, in industry they boil down to eliminating the laggardliness of certain sectors of industry and confidently developing all sectors, as well as insuring the unconditional fulfillment of the targets of the fourth year of the 5-year plan and of the entire 5-year plan as a whole in terms of all technical and economic indicators, primarily through the acceleration of scientific and technical progress, labor productivity growth, intensification of the policy of economy and thrift, and strengthening general organization and labor discipline.

In capital construction it is necessary to pay paramount attention to plan projects and those nearing completion, to commission ahead of schedule the new capacities at the Yermak ferrous alloy plant, the Pavlodar oil refinery, the second stage of the Novo-Dzhambulskiy phosphorus plant, and at the Karaganda industrial rubber goods plant. It is essential to secure the complete assimilation of resources, reduce the amount of so-called "incomplete work," enhance the quality of work everywhere, and successfully fulfill the program for the construction of housing, sociocultural and consumer projects.

In agriculture we must once again do everything in order to gratify the motherland with the maximum quantity of grain by implementing the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee July (1978) Plenum, because increasing grain production always was and still is one of our main tasks. It is also important to insure the confident buildup of the production of all types of arable produce, and also especially of livestock products.

It is necessary not only to secure the fulfillment and overfulfillment of this year's plan and of the 5-year plan as a whole, but also to see clearly the prospects for the development of the agriculture of each oblast, rayon and farm. We must particularly remember the republic's large share in the USSR's total production of grain and other agricultural produce. This makes it incumbent upon us to confidently build up the output of this produce and to intensify the attention we pay to vital problems--above all, those of livestock raising.

As our most immediate task, we must prepare in good time and to a high standard for the spring sowing, and insure the exemplary wintering of livestock. This will be our concrete response to the CPSU Central Committee address to all voters. (prolonged applause)

Much still remains to be done by us, especially in the sphere of strengthening science's links with production and developing fundamental research in the sphere of the technical, natural and social sciences, in the light of the party's demands and the spirit of the times.

The most favorable conditions have been created in the republic for the development of multinational culture, and its material base is being strengthened. But, as you yourselves well realize, this is only one aspect of the matter. It is necessary constantly to improve the activity of creative unions, raise the standard of work of the cultural-enlightenment establishments, and improve cultural and consumer services to the working people, especially in the countryside.

The successful fulfillment of large-scale economic and social tasks today is closely interconnected with the masses' high level of awareness, labor morale and ideological conviction.

This is why the party committees, mass information and propaganda media, and all workers on the ideological front must constantly strive for the further enhancement of the efficiency of educational work and arm people, especially the young, with the ideals of Marxism-Leninism and shape creative activeness, high morals, and the ability to translate our party's policy into action. (prolonged applause) In a word, it is necessary to do everything to further firmly establish the Soviet way of life and strengthen the friendship of the peoples, and to be merciless toward any manifestations of bourgeois and petit bourgeois ideology and morality which are alien to us.

Dear Alma-Ata comrades: When addressing you today as your candidate deputy I cannot fail to dwell on certain questions which immediately concern the republic's capital--the city of Alma-Ata. Alma-Ata today means major power, heavy, light and food industry installations. It is an important center of science, technology and culture.

Together with his high assessment of the inspired labor of the people of Kazakhstan, Leonid Ilich Brezhnev spoke with special warmth about our city in his book "The Virgin Lands." This places great obligations upon us. (prolonged applause)

Each of us can see the importance of the tremendous changes that have occurred since the last elections; over this period capital investment in the city's economy has been in excess of $2.5 billion. New installations in the food, meat and dairy industry have been commissioned to join those already operating and new capacities have been commissioned at a number of the capital's enterprises. Some of them are being radically transformed. The city has been beautified with many unique buildings. Housing construction is proceeding at a mounting pace. Since the last elections about 2.5 million square meters of housing and many new schools, polyclinics, public catering and consumer services enterprises, and post offices have been commissioned. More than 40,000 families in Alma-Ata have moved into well-appointed apartments. (prolonged applause)

Thus, comrade voters, much has been done in Alma-Ata. But this is not the limit. As your candidate deputy I can assure you that the Kazakhstan CP Central Committee and the republic's government will do everything to insure that the cultural and consumer conditions of the capital's working people constantly improve and the city itself becomes even better and more beautiful. (prolonged applause)

Comrades: Well coordinated work has always been, is, and always will be for us the prime guarantee of favorable changes. Many inhabitants of Alma-Ata are setting examples in creative and pioneering work. The collectives of the S.M. Kirov machine-building plant, the Alma-Ata heavy machinebuilding plant, the "20 Let Oktyabrya" plant, the low-voltage apparatus plant, the Dzerzhinskiy Association and many other enterprises are marching in the vanguard of socialist competition.

The city's industry coped successfully with the plan for the first 3 years of the 5-year plan for the sale of industrial products, producing output worth tens of million of rubles above the plan and improving quality in many areas.

However, while noting undoubted successes today, it is impossible to remain silent about shortcomings. Certain enterprises are still not coping with the plan for output sales and with the targets for labor productivity growth, are not making full use of planned capacities, are not adequately combating losses of work time, or have relaxed the policy of economy and thrift.

The city and its oblast account for one-fifth of the republic's total output of consumer goods. Alma-Ata enterprises now produce about 400 items of the highest category, and a number of goods enjoy a good reputation not only within our republic but far beyond its boundaries. Much has been and is being done. But if a more critical view is taken, it emerges that many of your indicators here are still below the average for the republic.

The main question is enhancing the efficiency of social production and improving the quality of the output being produced. The struggle for this is not a short-term campaign but a general direction in our economic policy. Each labor collective, which can and must work far better, must take a most active and concerned part in the successful solution of this task, which is so very important.

At the same time special attention must be paid to increasing the output of goods for children and again to enhancing their quality.

All these questions must be solved without delay.

The recent Alma-Atinskaya Oblast party conference discussed in detail the oblast's agricultural tasks. Therefore, I shall not dwell on these questions. I shall merely say that all the conditions exist in the oblast for producing an abrupt change for the better in arable and livestock farming. Much advanced experience has been accumulated on many sovkhozes and kolkhozes, and this must not be kept under wraps but must be disseminated in every way. The process of agricultural production specialization and concentration ought to be developed more confidently, the livestock population must be built up, and on this basis the output of livestock products must be increased, qualitative indicators improved and negligence toward the social welfare resolutely suppressed.

It must be observed that the oblast's arable farming and its livestock raising in particular will not develop and improve on their own, without selfless work by rural workers, without the active strengthening of science's link with agricultural production, and without assistance provided in a planned manner by enterprises, establishments, and organizations in the capital, acting as patrons. In this sense it is necessary to strengthen direct patronage links, which rule out parasitism and to allot every farm an energetic and specific patron, be it a plant, a factory, or an institute; this has been discussed several times already. You cannot have any doubts that all this will help to increase the profitability of the farms and will help to supply the capital's population incomparably better with agricultural produce.

Comrade deputies! Great and crucial tasks face us in the sphere of construction. A number of very important installations and capacities in literally all sectors of industry are to be commissioned in the city and oblast.

Moreover, in the city alone it is necessary to build more than 500,000 square meters of housing, new schools, hospitals, polyclinics, trade establishments and consumer enterprises and to accelerate the building of the Kazakh theater of drama, the Pioneer Palace, the "Inturist" Hotel, the Kazakhstan State University and other VUZes in order fittingly to mark the approaching jubilee--the 60th anniversary of the Kazakh SSR.

The quite specific task is now being set of eliminating Alma-Ata's shortage of children's preschool establishments. It is essential to solve this important task simultaneously with increasing the tempo of housing construction. (prolonged applause)

Alma-Ata is located in an area of special natural conditions. This causes great difficulties in preserving the purity of the city's surrounding atmosphere. Nevertheless, it is necessary to do everything to intensify the protection of the environment, to expand work on providing the city with greenery and amenities, to accelerate the building of main heat distribution networks and also of heat distribution networks within apartment blocks, to keep a tighter check on the technical condition of motor transport, and to take other effective measures.

Alma-Ata is quite rightly called a city in which almost everyone is studying. And this is true. Quite naturally, it is the young people who, most of all, are engaged in study. Alma-Ata now has, comrades, 15 VUZes, 16 technical colleges, 178 general educational schools, and dozens of training centers. Moreover, since the last elections an institute of railroad transport engineers, a power industry institute, a theatrical-arts institute, and a teacher-training college have been opened in the republic's capital.

It is impossible to enumerate all the useful causes with which the lives of our glorious young students and their experienced mentors and teachers are now bound up. But at the same time it is necessary to tackle more actively the vital problems of public education and higher education, to strengthen their material base, to be careful to see that the training and educational process is effective and of a high standard everywhere, and to form in young people a more active life stance and a developed awareness of the law.

The further strengthening of law and order and a most resolute struggle against drunkenness, hooliganism and other antisocial manifestations must be our common concern. It is important to step up the activity of the voluntary people's militia, comrades' courts, and crime prevention councils. The local party and soviet organs, MVD, prosecution service and the courts, with the broad participation of the public and the press, must establish strict order here.

It is incumbent on us to recall that socialist democracy means the unbreakable unity of citizens' rights and obligations. And those who forget this must be given a reminder not just by persuasion but also with the full force of the Soviet laws. (prolonged applause)

I should like to mention briefly some very important spheres such as medical, trade, and cultural and consumer services, and the work of public transport.

The Kazakhstan CP Central Committee, the republic's Council of Ministers, the party and soviet organs and the newspaper editorial offices are still receiving many critical letters on these and similar topics. Such vitally important questions must be acted upon on a current basis and in a businesslike fashion, and each specific case must be thoroughly investigated.

Any shortcomings or instances of incomplete work needs to be eliminated. Of course, it is important to solve every problem, large and small, at a stroke. But it is important to perceive them and not ignore them, and to strive with all possible businesslike efficiency and in a self-critical manner to secure a high degree of organization, discipline and quality in the execution of assigned tasks in every sector. (prolonged applause)

All this, put together, will undoubtedly help to intensify the struggle to transform Alma-Ata into a city of high culture and exemplary public order. It is worth working hard, stinting neither effort or time, for this sake.

Permit me to wish you every success in this noble work and to say that the Kazakhstan CP Central Committee and the republic's government will continue to give you the most active and businesslike assistance in this work. (prolonged applause)

Comrades! As you can clearly imagine, all our domestic affairs are inseparably linked with foreign policy matters. Our international policy, founded by the great Lenin, is embodied today in the course drawn up by the 24th and 25th CPSU congresses and being consistently implemented.

This realistic policy which, in spirit and action, accords profoundly with the interests of lasting and irreversible peace, is generating a fervent response among all progressive mankind. Progressive mankind is treating with complete understanding the Soviet Union's foreign policy initiatives and its positive line which is being unswervingly followed by the Leninist Central Committee of our party, and by the Central Committee Politburo headed by Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, outstanding politician and statesman of the present time.

As is emphasized in the CPSU Central Committee address to all voters, the USSR is waging a persistent struggle against attempts by the imperialists and Beijing leaders to exacerbate the international situation.

The Soviet Union is doing everything to exclude war from international relations. The struggle for peace is the cornerstone of our foreign policy. The CPSU is struggling consistently and implacably against international reactions, dangerous maneuvers and for lasting peace on earth. The conduct of the Chinese leadership has recently been assuming particularly ominous forms and this conduct in no way conforms to the people's peace-loving aspirations. The treacherous aggression they have perpetrated against heroic Vietnam has exposed once and for all the criminality of the Beijing politicians' hegemonist schemes. News of this monstrous attack was greeted with a feeling of profound indignation by every Soviet person. Meetings of solidarity with the heroic Vietnamese people are now taking place in our republic, as they are throughout the country, at which working people are unanimously expressing their support for the Soviet Government statement and are demanding an immediate end to the aggression and the withdrawal of Chinese troops from the territory of the fraternal country. (prolonged applause) Together with all progressive mankind Soviet people are resolutely and unreservedly demanding for all to hear: "Hands off Socialist Vietnam!" (tumultuous applause)

While consistently pursuing a peace-loving foreign policy, the Communist Party and Soviet state are at the same time devoting unremitting attention to strengthening the country's defensive might and its heroic armed forces.

As the CPSU Central Committee address to all voters states, "The party is confident that the valiant servicemen of the army and navy will continue to fulfill their patriotic and internationalist duty fittingly, to enhance combat readiness in every way, and to stand guard vigilantly over socialism's revolutionary gains." (prolonged applause)

In this sense our Red Banner Central Asian Military District and Red Banner Eastern Border District, whose personnel are greeting the forthcoming elections with new achievements in combat and political training, have a special role to play. (prolonged applause) Permit me, comrades, on your behalf, to wish our glorious servicemen further success in the improvement of their military skill. (prolonged applause)

Comrades! Soviet Kazakhstan too is making its contribution to strengthening the motherland's international prestige. We have every reason to say that, together with all fraternal republics, Kazakhstan is worthily representing our country, convincingly showing the advantages of the Soviet way of life. Lenin's nationalities policy in action, the veracity of our democracy and the real human rights which are guaranteed by the new Constitution and by the whole structure of our system--the most democratic and free on earth. (prolonged applause)

Vladimir Ilich Lenin said that the worker and the peasant judge democracy not from what is written on paper but from what it actually provides in life. In this sense the democracy of real socialism provides the working man with the kind of rights which no bourgeois state gives him--freedom from exploitation, from political, racial and religious oppression, the right to work, to educate, to free medical aid, to housing, to a secure old age, and so forth.

The political system of real socialism has honorably stood the test of time. The chief feature that characterizes it is the growing role of the party, which insures real sovereignty of the people, very profound humanism, real freedom and the most favorable conditions for the all-round development of the individual.

Of course, we are a long way from thinking that everything here is ideal and that we have solved all questions. But we can see our unresolved questions and we shall solve them confidently by common efforts and in the interests of the working people whose well-being and peace have always been, are, and always will be the supreme goal of our glorious party. (prolonged applause)

Dear comrades! The present election campaign is taking place in an atmosphere of the high political and labor activeness of the workers, kolkhoz members and intelligentsia. It is imparting new impetus to the growth of the working people's creative initiative and to their mobilization for the solution of the chief socioeconomic tasks.

The forthcoming elections to the country's supreme organ of state power will be the first since the new Soviet Constitution came into force and since the adoption of the new law on USSR Supreme Soviet elections. This also imparts a special nature and concrete importance to the present election campaign.

There is a very profound meaning in the monolithic unity of the bloc of communists and nonparty people: the life, aspirations and concerns of the people are the life, aspirations and concerns of the party. The party and people are proceeding toward the functioning elections in a state of close cohesion and with a single common aspiration--to augment the success of our great multinational motherland and of the whole socialist community, and to make the life of each working family even better, and peace on earth stronger.

As Vladimir Ilich Lenin pointed out, we are internationalists. Soviet people are internationalists in their attitude toward the workers and all the working people on earth, toward the communist workers' and revolutionary-democratic parties, and toward the oppressed people.

We are internationalists in our mutual relations within the country, among our national republics, and in each multinational labor collective. This is why we shall never allow anyone, in any guise or under any slogan whatever, to encroach on what we hold dearest--the great friendship of the Soviet peoples. (prolonged applause)

Comrades! All the leading organs of our country from top to bottom consist of representatives of the working class, kolkhoz peasantry and people's intelligentsia. During the present election campaign the people are nominating their most worthy representatives.

By voting in the forthcoming elections for the candidates of the inviolable bloc of communists and nonparty people, the people of Alma-Ata and all the working people of Soviet Kazakhstan, together with all the Soviet people, will display with new vigor their monolithic unity and cohesion around Lenin's party and its combat staff--the Central Committee headed by Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhev. (prolonged applause)

Summing up what has been said, it can be stated once again that we have, on the whole, begun the fourth year of the 10th 5-year Plan well. The working people of Kazakhstan, like all Soviet people, are working in a good frame of mind. But we must not rest on our laurels, since the country has entered the most decisive period of the 5-year plan--a period which will be a great new stage in the creation of communism.

At this time, when the voters are discussing very important questions of our life and when various comments and proposals are being voiced, it is necessary to make every effort to insure that all our state, economic and public organizations operate even more purposefully and effectively, relying on a tried and tested weapon--businesslike criticism and self-criticism--and paying paramount attention to implementing the voters' instructions, which is a very important part of the work of the party organs and of the soviets of peoples deputies.

According to the party's demand, it is important to step up the activity of the soviets, trade unions and Komsomol organizations, people's control organs, the press, radio and television, the creative unions and of cultural establishments in every way.

In the light of the provisions of the new USSR Constitution it is necessary to insure the increasingly broad enlistment of the working people into production management and the running of state and public affairs, remembering that the prime guarantee of our achievements always and everywhere has been, is and will remain firm reliance on the party's wise leadership, collective intellect and very rich experience and on the organization and efficient action of all labor collectives and each working person.

"Soviet society possesses priceless political capital--the party's cohesion and the unity of the party and people..."Comrade L.I. Brezhnev pointed out. "This makes it possible to express firm confidence that new successes await us in solving the historic tasks set by the 25th party congress and in the struggle for consolidating the cause of peace and security of the people, and for the triumph of the idea of Marxism-Leninism." (prolonged applause)

Permit me, dear comrades, to thank you once again wholeheartedly for the high trust placed in me. Rest assured that I shall give unstintingly of effort, energy and knowledge to honorably justify this trust. (prolonged applause)

Permit me, comrades, on your behalf to assure the Leninist Central Committee and the Politburo headed by Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev that the working people of Soviet Kazakhstan will do everything possible for the further successful implementation of the historic decisions of the 25th congress of our own dear Communist Party. (tumultuous, prolonged applause. all rise)

Masherov in Brest

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[BELTA report on speech delivered by P.M. Masherov, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Belorussian CP Central Committee at 12 February meeting of Brestskiy Electoral Okrug voters under general heading: "Along the Party's General Course"]

Dear Comrades!

First of all allow me to express feelings of the most heartfelt gratitude and deep thanks to you and all working people's collectives who have again done me a great honor by nominating me as USSR Supreme Soviet candidate deputy. Thank you also for the good, warm words at this meeting and for your kindness to me.

I treasure infinitely and take pride in your trust and wholly attribute it to our dear Communist Party, which raised and educated me.

There is nothing higher than the trust of the party and people, nothing more beautiful than to link one's destiny inextricably and forever with the inspired struggle for the implementation of Lenin's noble ideals, for the happiness and welfare of the working person and for the assertion of the most wonderful thing in the world--communist civilization.

Fully aware that the flattering assessments made of me here, for all their sincerity and directness, do of course contain a considerable amount of exaggeration, I regard them as a sort of advance payment for the future which I still have to repay to a considerable extent by my labor and work.

Allow me to assure you and through you all voters of the okrug that I will seek to justify your trust and bear worthily my honorable and responsible duties as a deputy to the supreme organ of state power of the great land of the soviets.

The preparations for the USSR Supreme Soviet elections give every Soviet person a wonderful opportunity to check his step against the requirements and spirit of the time, to use the words of M.I. Kalinin, as it were to rise "to the tower of the tasks of the entire state" and the policy of the entire state and to focus the working people's attention on the fundamental, key problems of social life.

The present election campaign is taking place under the beneficial influence of events of truly permanent historic significance. There is the 25th CPSU Congress, under the ever growing influence of whose ideas and decisions the creative work of the party and people--work of titanic dimensions and imposing scale--is now being implemented. There is the adoption of the new USSR Constitution, which has enshrined in legislation and extensively reflected the outstanding achievements and inexhaustable potential of developed socialism. There is the nationwide celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, whose victory was the main event of the 20th century. There are also the impressive celebrations devoted to the 60th anniversary of the Belorussian SSR and the Belorussian CP, which developed into a moving demonstration of our people's boundless loyalty to the ideas of Great October, the party of Lenin and the Soviet peoples' friendship and fraternity.

Looking back over the years which have passed since the previous USSR Supreme Soviet elections we can see that this has been an exceptionally important and fruitful stage in the implementation of our party's general course. Its determining feature has been the nationwide struggle for the implementation of the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress, the improvement of production efficiency and work quality in all sectors of economic and cultural building, and the implementation of the targets of the 10th 5-Year Plan. Party, state and economic organs, labor collectives and all Soviet people have worked and are continuing to work obstinately and persistently on the practical solution of these questions.

As a member of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium I can report that it is precisely these problems which have been and continue to be the focus of attention of the country's supreme organ of power, which has worked more purposefully and fruitfully than ever during these years. This has been promoted to a decisive degree by the election to the post of chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium of Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, whose activity has graphically and comprehensively embodied the best features of a Leninist style of work--a creative style alien to subjectivism and permeated by a scientific approach to all social processed. Leonid Ilich's statements, and the advice, instructions and recommendations they contain, are imbued with sensitivity, attention and spiritual proximity to man with an excellent understanding of working people's needs, requirements and moods.

The USSR Supreme Soviet has examined and resolved many very important problems relating to state, economic and cultural building, the improvement of Soviet legislation and the consolidation of socialist legality and law and order. The multifaceted activity of the supreme organ of state power and the soviets of people's deputies at all levels, the increased sociopolitical activity of labor collectives and the enhancement of the role of public organizations--all this shows expressively and graphically how, as V.I. Lenin put it, "For the first time in the history of civilized societies, the mass of the population is being raised to independent participation not only in ballots and elections but also in daily management (Complete Collected Works Vol 33 p 116).

The improvement of socialist statehood and socialist democracy are the central direction of society's political development at the stage of mature socialism. The key role in this process belongs to the party of communists. As the leading and guiding force of our society and its political system the CPSU has won unquestionable authority and nationwide respect. This authority is not enhanced by promises and assurance but is based on the full correpondence between the party's words and deeds and the interests of the people and the spirit of the time and on the ability to substantiate scientifically the main aims and directions of policy and insure their achievements.

The recently published CPSU Central Committee appeal to all voters and citizens of the USSR showed vividly the achievements of the land of the soviets since the previous elections and clearly defined the long-term tasks. Following the course outlined by the party, the Soviet people have achieved considerable successes in the decisive sphere of social life--material production--which is the main operations base for the struggle for communism. Over this period the volume of industrial output in the country has increased 1.4 times compared with the previous 5-year period and 1,344 large-scale enterprises have been comissioned. The scale of our creative work is now such that an average of four powerful plants now appear every week on the boundless expanses of the fatherland. Our plants are among them--the oil refinery in Mozyr and the fourth potassium plant in Soligorsk, the synthetic fiber plant in Grodno, the automated forging and pressing lines and casting equipment plant in Pinsk, the large-panel house construction plant in Bereza, the dairy combine in Brest, and new large-scale capacities at the "Khimvolokno" and "Dolomit" associations.

Invariably oriented toward the improvement of social production efficiency and output quality, the republic's party organizations and labor collectives keep at the center of their attention the accelerated development of sectors which determine and insure labor productivity growth and open up opportunities for the fullest use of the fruit of the scientific and technical revolution. In the period between elections industrial production has risen 52 percent while production of instruments and means of automation and spare parts for them has increased 2.5 times. Over 200 new manufacturing processess have been introduced, 3,100 automated and mechanized flow lines installed, 1,200 shops, sectors and production facilities comprehensively mechanized and automated, and production of almost 1,000 new types of output assimilated and launched. The proportion of output in the top quality category was 20.7 percent of the total last year.

These years have also been a time of fruitful search and substantial achievements in implementing the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress for agricultural workers. Our party's scientifically substantiated agrarian policy with its innovatory essence, the consistent, efficiently verified line of the CPSU Central Committee and the selfless labor of the Soviet peasantry and entire people have insured considerable qualitative changes in this vitally important sector. Last year the biggest harvest in our entire farming history was gathered in the country--235 million tons. Our republic's agriculture is also advancing confidently. From 1974 through 1978 the average volume of gross output in the public sector increased 21.8 percent compared with the previous 5-year period. Despite complex weather conditions the average grain crop yield in the current 5-year plan has increased 24 percent compared with the corresponding period of the Ninth 5-year Plan, reaching 25.1 quintals per hectare. The harvest of other agricultural crops has been increased appreciably. A comparatively good harvest--180 quintals per hectare--was produced by the potato plantations last year. The republic overfulfilled the plans for the sale of grain, potatoes, sugar beet, vegetables, milk, meat, eggs and wool to the state.

The work of your oblast party organization and all rural workers in the Brest area can serve as an instructive example of the successful implementation of many important aspects of the CPSU's agrarian policy. Last year you harvested 74.4 kg of grain per unit [ball] of arable land--the highest indicator among the republic's oblasts. The people of Brest also hold a leading place in terms of potato yield, which reached 207 quintals per hectare. It is pleasing to note that for 3 straight years and on four occasions in all the oblast has been awarded Challenge Red Banners of the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Council of Ministers, AUCCTU, and Komsomol Central Committee. Our republic as a whole has been accorded the same high honor for the sixth time now.

Everything created, constructed and achieved in our republic is ultimately aimed at insuring the steady improvement of the people's welfare. This year, as you know, the raising of the wages of workers in the nonproduction sphere is being completed as a result of which a total of 31 million people in the country will have received a substantial wage increase during the 10th 5-Year Plan. There is no family which has not enjoyed benefits from the constantly growing public consumption funds. The housing problem is being consistently resolved. Take your city, for instance. In the years of the ninth and current 5-year plans alone every fourth Brest inhabitant has improved his housing conditions. New districts, new residential areas are growing up and the population's entire life-style is taking a turn for the better.

As you can see, comrades, much has been done on all salients fo the struggle for the fulfillment of the 25th Party Congress decisions and the 10th 5-Year Plan targets. All this has prepared a bridgehead for further advance and for the solution of even broader and more complex tasks.

And as always the path toward new frontiers is defined by the party and its wise Leninist headquarters--the CPSU Central Committee. The CPSU Central Committee November (1978) Plenum examined profoundly and comprehensively the key problems of the development of the national economy requiring special attention from party, soviet, and economic organs and all working people. It stressed once again most emphatically that all problems of the development of our national economy must be examined from the positions of the determining factor of the economic and social growth of the society of developed socialism--from the positions of the party's course toward the improvement of social production efficiency and the quality of work in all sectors of economic and cultural building.

Comrade Leonid Ilich Brezhnev's speech at the plenum leveled keen and principled criticism against shortcomings in the implementation of this course and revealed the paths for their elimination and the paths for the further implementation of the 25th Party Congress' socioeconomic program.

And today there is no task of greater importance for us than the implementation of the CPSU Central Committee Plenum decisions and the conclusions and principles set forth in Comrade L.I. Brezhnev's speech with respect to the improvement of production efficiency and work quality and the fuller utilization of intensive factors of economic growth.

Here we all have something to work on. A fuller orientation toward intensive factors of economic growth means above all the rational, efficient use of everything our national economy possesses. The republic has a powerful economic potential. But the facts show that it is clearly being used inadequately. While during the 10th 5-Year Plan fixed production capital in the national economy has increased 27.5 percent, national income has increased only 18 percent and social labor productivity 14 percent. In the republic's industry labor productivity has risen 16.1 percent over this period as against the planned 16.5 percent while in construction it has risen 8.6 percent instead of 17.2 percent. Only 68.4 percent of the increase in the column of construction and installation work were obtained by means of this factor.

The main reason for these serious shortcomings is that economic organs and party committees are steering a course toward the improvement of production efficiency and work quality without due persistence and consistency. Under present-day conditions the main way to raise labor productivity is to accelerate the rate of technical progress. But many ministries and economic leaders are still not paying the necessary attention to technical reequipping and modernization of enterprises. The replacement of obsolescent and obsolete machinery and equipment is proceeding only slowly. Every year a little over 3 percent of the active part of existing fixed capital is renewed at industrial enterprises. And that means that their full renovation, unless proper steps are taken, will take over 30 years. This rate obviously does not accord with the requirements of the scientific and technical revolution which is imperiously invading our life. It cannot insure the growth in efficiency which we need.

Insufficient use is made of the republic's increased scientific potential for the intensification of production. Only one-third of all inventions born in scientific institutions and republics are brought to the point where they are introduced, and as a rule these are operations which do not require special trouble on the part of production workers and scarely revolutionize equipment and technology.

But the course toward the acceleration of technical progress throughout the national economy is now acquiring particular significant for us in light of the limitation of the opportunities for supplementing manpower in the immediate future.

In the eighties we will again feel the demographic reverberations of the war. Thus, in the 11th 5-Year Plan the increase in the population of employment age in the republic will be only 1.4 percent instead of 10 and 7 percent in the 9th and 10th 5-year plans respectively. And that means that the insuring of rapid, steady development rates for our national economy in the future will depend on how consistently, actively and purposefully we are able to resolve the tasks of improving production efficiency and work quality and the persistence with which we implement the inexhaustible reserves for the more rational use of the enormous army of skilled workers and specialists the republic has at its disposal--people with a high level of general educational and vocational training selflessly devoted to the great cause of building communism.

The main thing here is to insure the steady growth of their labor productivity, the significance of which cannot be overestimated. Thus, in the current 5-year plan it is planned to save the labor of over 1 million people through this factor. This is almost three times the natural growth of manpower over this period.

But labor productivity growth is important to us not only as a factor in saving labor resources and increasing social production efficiency but also as an important means for the all-round development of technology and consequently requires from the working person more thorough knowledge and a broader general culture. It exalts the worker as an individual, expands his horizons and uplifts him to solve statewide problems of the development of socialist production.

The acceleration of the rate of improvement and raising of the technical standard of production, mechanization and automation and a resolute offensive against manual, unskilled and heavy physical labor are an urgent task for economic and planning organs. It is precisely here that there are colossal reserves for labor productivity growth which up to now have been far from fully exploited.

Over 280,000 workers in the republic's industry and 85,000 in construction are now employed in manual jobs. Over 600,000 of our villages' inhabitants are employed in unskilled work.

The imperfection of technology, shortcomings in the organization of labor and the shortage of means of mechanization lie behind this. This latter circumstance is being mentioned increasingly frequently. But does this mean that we can wait calmly until everything necessary for the mechanization of manual labor is provided through a centralized system? By no means.

Following the experience of leading collectives, we must elaborate at all levels--from enterprises to sectors and the republic's national economy as a whole--comprehensive programs for a sharp reduction in manual labor. It is essential to make more extensive use of the potential of our machine building for the production of means of mechanization and to increase the proportion of capital investments earmarked for the further improvement of the technical standard of production and the mechanization of auxiliary work. At present a large proportion of funds for these purposes is channeled into basic production. But practice attests that from the viewpoint of the release of manpower--and for us this is particularly important now--capital investments in auxiliary processes are far more effective.

Nor must we discount the social aspect of the problem of the mechanization and automation of labor, particularly of heavy work. Life shows convincingly that where due attention is not paid to this aspect of the matter losses of working time and cadre turnover are as a rule high. [paragraph continues]

And as a result the national economy suffers considerable losses, failing to acquire output worth many millions of rubles because of this. Here there is broad scope for action for our planning organs and ministry, department, enterprise and organization leaders.

We must also improve the training and raise the qualifications of cadres as an essential condition for resolving the task of production efficiency labor productivity growth. The qualitative upgrading of workers and the improvement of their professional knowledge can and must compensate considerably for the reduction in the growth of manpower in sectors of the national economy.

Considerable attention is paid to this question in the republic. The network of vocational and technical colleges has been expanded, schools teaching advanced methods of work and courses for training workers in related professions have been created and are operating at enterprises. At the same time not everything here satisfies us. It cannot be regarded as normal that on-site training of workers, which so far occupies a dominant place compared with training in the vocational and technical education system, is geared to a considerable extent toward developing narrow practical skills and frequently fails to provide the necessary theoretical knowledge. At a number of enterprises training of young people who have graduated from secondary schools boils down only to a brief period of instruction. As a result a considerable proportion of young people who come into production are used for unskilled work, which gives rise to dissatisfaction and to cadre turnover with all the adverse social and economic consequences that this entails.

It must be remembered that modern production and rapid scientific and technical progress are making increasing demands on the worker with extensive knowledge and a high level of vocational training, thorough theoretical competence and a developed sense of social responsibility. This obliges us, at every enterprise, on every kolkhoz and sovkhoz, and in the services sphere, to implement well-conceived, specific measures insuring the improvement of cadre training and the raising of their qualifications, progress by the workers to the peaks of their profession, and the formation of workers of a new type capable of successfully resolving the tasks of production efficiency growth and prevailing by virtue not of their numbers but of their ability and the high quality of their labor and output. These plans must pay special attention to people's moral education since good work and high quality output depend not only on the technical standard of production and the workers' qualifications but also to a decisive degree on a person's moral features, on his conscience, honesty, and feeling of deep respect for people and his discipline and responsibility. This must not be forgotten and in this direction there is a great deal more fruitful work to be done by party committees and economic organs--all those involved in the development of the economy and the education of the Soviet person. It is time we understood that the improvement of the qualitative characteristics of production and products is far more effective than simply increasing their volumes since it makes it possible to resolve the tasks of satisfying the national economy's requirements with smaller expenditure--to insure quantity via quality, so to speak.

In recent years party committees and production collectives, fulfilling the decisions of the 25th Party Congress, have done a great deal to improve the technical standard of all output and to improve the range and quality of consumer goods. Improved motor vehicles and tractors, machine tools and equipment have been put into series production, and progressive new types of output in the chemical industry and good-quality consumer goods are being assimilated.

At the same time the republic's impressive economic potential and the high technical standard of our industry's fixed production capital oblige us not to stop at what has been achieved but to advance further and consistently improve the quality of output. The considerable share of the republic's economy for which sectors producing consumer goods account imposes on us a duty to struggle more actively to increase production and expand the range of consumer goods and particularly to improve their quality as one of the key national economic tasks which was set so keenly by the CPSU Central Committee November (1978) Plenum.

An appreciable role in resolving this task belongs to the labor collectives of Brestskaya Oblast whose enterprises produce 90 perent of cotton textiles and a considerable proportion of other consumer goods made in the republic. Output from the Brest gas appliance plant, carpet weaving association, and hosiery combine and the Pinsk knitted outerwear combine have received recognition from consumers.

But as a whole our enterprises producing consumer goods still have a great debt to pay to the Soviet people. You only have to recall that of all the output in the top quality category produced in the republic only one-fifth is made up of consumer goods. A number of enterprises allow deviations from the set range and produce articles based on obsolete models and styles which remain in the trade network. In the first 3 years of the 5-year plan R131 million was lost in reducing prices for old stock throughout the republic.

As a result demand remains unsatisfied and the labor of hundreds and thousands of workers in intermediate production components concentrated on finished output goes to waste. Production of substandard articles results in tremendous economic and social losses and reduces social production efficiency.

Unfortunately there are enterprises in Brestskaya Oblast whose output does not have a good reputation. Consumers complain a great deal about articles manufactured at the Baranovich footwear and sewn goods factories, the Brest knitted outerwear factory and the Pinsk Dinamo knitwear factory.

We must work enterprisingly, persistently and consistently on the task of filling the market with the requisite consumer goods and comprehensively improving their quality. In accordance with the instructions of the CPSU Central Committee November (1978) Plenum the republic's planning and economic organs must implement concrete measures to further increase consumer goods production, unconditionally fulfill the plans for the commissioning of new capacities and modernization of existing enterprises engaged in their production and improve product quality.

It is also necessary to dwell especially on certain very urgent problems connected with the quality of our work on the further intensification of agricultural production. As has already been said, the purposeful efforts of party organizations and all rural working people are bearing tangible fruit. As a whole the republic achieved good results in terms of yields, gross harvests and the development of livestock raising. But to fully satisfy people's demands for foodstuffs and industry's demands for raw material we must strive for far more and make fuller use of the potential of every hectare of agricultural land, material and technical facilities, capital investments and the enhanced grain-growing expertise.

We have examples which indicate that our Belorussian land is capable even now of providing harvests of 50 and even 60 quintals of grain per hectare. [paragraph continues]

It is capable of fully providing for livestock raising's fodder requirements which will make it possible to double and even treble meat and milk production. However, so far we have not managed to make full use of the possibilities created in agriculture as a result of the implementation of the party's agrarian policy since the CPSU Central Committee March (1965) Plenum.

The republic as a whole is coping with the plans for the production of the very important types of agricultural output but we failed during the first 3 years of the 10th 5-Year Plan to fulfill our pledges for grain yield and gross harvests, livestock productivity and meat and milk production. A large group of farms and rayons is failing every year to attain the planned targets. A considerable number of kolkhozes and sovkhozes are also failing to fulfill plans for the sale of agricultural products to the state.

And it would be wrong to cite unfavorable weather conditions or other objective factors as the sole reasons for negative phenomena of this kind. The root of the evil should be sought primarily in subjective factors, in shortcomings committed in our work.

Of course, weather conditions have a direct influence on agricultural production. This is axiomatic. But their influence on the final results is not as great as some comrades try to make out. The unfavorable weather may prevent people from attaining the maximum level but it cannot prevent people from obtaining a relatively large harvest. The impressive new targets which we have to achieve in agriculture are completely realistic and within the capabilities of our kolkhozes and sovkhozes. Consequently, in order to achieve the target we must not depend on nature's charity but must organize work in such a way as to insure the general fulfillment of plans in all conditions, that is, obtain ever greater harvests and gross crops.

The experience is there. We have many farms which reap big harvests of all crops every year, irrespective of weather conditions, and have excellent indicators in the production of livestock products. They are to be found in every zone of the republic. You have the famous Osnezhitskiy Kolkhoz in Pinskiy Rayon, the 40 Let Oktyabrya Kolkhoz in Stolinskiy Rayon, the Sovetskaya Belorussiya Kolkhoz in Kamenetskiy Rayon, the Zavety Lenina Kolkhoz in Maloritskiy Rayon and many others.

It is characteristic that the practice of leading farms is based on factors common to all: a high standard of farming, a heavy concentration of livestock and the production and application of maximum doses of organic fertilizers. This experience, repeatedly verified by life, is universal and is a determining factor in the effective development of agricultural production. And apart from being generally accessible to other farms it must be introduced on a wide scale, especially as our tasks will be even greater in the near future. Responding with concrete measures to the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee July (1978) Plenum, we must attain a level of 35 and more quintals of grain per hectare in the republic as a whole in the 11th 5-Year Plan.

It will be no easy matter to achieve these targets. It will be necessary to mobilize all material and technical resources; it will require creative, purposeful work on the part of all those involved in some way or another in this work and we will have to bring fully into play the fundamental factors which have a direct influence on large harvests. A great deal will have to be done to improve the fertility of the land, to work out all questions relating to seed growing, to make better use of equipment and, of course, to introduce the achievements of scientific and technical progress on a wider scale.

Today I do not intend to cover in detail problems relating to grain growing or the development of agricultural production as a whole. These will be discussed in detail at the forthcoming republican seminar on agriculture which will be held very soon in Minskaya Oblast. Therefore, I will just sketch out a few questions relating to our future work in this area.

In accordance with the pledges, we must obtain 31-32 quintals of grain crops per hectare this year, that is, provide a republic average of 4.5-5.5 quintals over and above last year's figure and thus attain the yield level envisaged by our measures for the fulfillment of the 25th CPSU Congress decisions. This biggest increase should be seen in Vitebskaya Oblast, where the grain harvest was extremely low last year as a result of which the average republic indicator was cut by 2.8 quintals. Consequently, the Vitebskaya Oblast farmers now have a special responsibility to fulfill the pledges adopted by the republic. As for the other oblasts, in particular Brestskaya Oblast, where 29.7 quintals were harvested per hectare last year, it is necessary to insure a relatively small increase although the level which should be attained will be considerable. This is the crux of the matter.

In general the targets which have to be attained are high and the work will be hard. But this year's pledges, like those of previous years, are realistic and valid. And we are bound to achieve the planned targets if during the preparations for the spring sowing and during the implementation of all this year's work we apply the lessons of and draw conclusions from the practice of previous years and if all past mistakes and omissions in work are totally eliminated.

Everything is of equal importance: the reduction by one and a half to two times of the duration of harvest work, the use of exclusively high-quality seeds, the prompt tending of crops, reaction to changing weather conditions by choosing appropriate soil cultivation techniques and unswerving observance of other conditions of high-quality agricultural work. These are all well known provisions, what you would call truisms.

But when it is a matter of reaching for heights that we have never reached before, then this matter, like other elementary demands of techniques of cultivating grain and other crops, must be approached in a fundamentally new way and every part of this work, every factor that plays a part in making the harvest, even those which might at first glance appear insignificant, must be carefully worked out. In other words, all farming work everywhere must be carried out as responsibly as possible and with exceptional conscientiousness and attention to quality. And this can be done by people with high professional skills, trained agricultural specialists and machine operators who must have perfect knowledge and be able to make practical use of the modern achievements of agronomical science and leading experience.

Only then will we be able to raise grain farming and plant growing in general to the required level, making it possible to solve the problem of producing a sufficient quantity of fodder, without which we will make no progress at all in the development of our livestock raising. But the targets in this area are also very high since they are oriented toward a general improvement in meat product supplies for the population. By 1985 it is proposed to produce at least 150-160 quintals of meat per 100 hectares of agricultural land in the public sector.

We pin special hopes on the Polesye area where a great deal of land is being reclaimed. The specialized sector of meat livestock raising is being set up on this land. It should provide, on all categories of farms, 660,000 tons of meat, including 400,000 tons of beef, by the end of the current 5-year plan, and more than 1 million tons by 1990.

What must be done to achieve this? First, insure a cattle density of at least 100 head per 100 hectares of agricultural land, including 35 cows; second, insure a constant increase in the proportion of meat breeds; third, create a sound fodder base primarily through the production of grass fodders manufactured in accordance with progressive techniques.

In short, all our work associated with the further development of agricultural production must be as well organized, of as high a quality as possible and equal to tomorrow's, and not only today's, requirements.

The successful implementation of what has been outlined, the rhythm, tempo and the entire course of the process of creation in all economic and cultural spheres depend today to a decisive extent on the skill and desire of all our working people to work creatively and to apply all their energies. Special urgency is attached to questions relating to the improvement of management style and methods and insuring that people have a sharpened sense of responsibility for the work in hand. It is not simply a matter of a working person's unconditional fulfillment of his duties and normative demands. I am thinking about the really big things--the performance of one's duty on the basis of a high degree of morality when conscientious labor for the common good becomes man's conscious aim and the main content of his activity.

We are rightly proud of the thousands of remarkable working people whose actions and behavior are the supreme embodiment of the interests of society and the norms and principles of communist morality. In your city and okrug and far beyond, the names of true guardsmen of the 5-year plan are famous--Hero of Socialist Labor Vasiliy Danilovich Maknovich and Stepan Lukich Volk, construction team leaders; Lidiya Dmitriyevna Bryzga, milkmaid on the Zhdanov Kolkhoz in Brestskiy Rayon; Gennadiy Georgiyevich Ostrovskiy, fitters team leader at the electrical engineering plant; Sergey Yegorovich Trofimov, tractor team leader on the Sovetskaya Belorussiya Kolkhoz in Kamenetskiy Rayon, and many, many other leading production workers and innovators.

Their professional expertise shines brightly. Each is distinguished by enviable zeal and initiative in work and in an insatiable desire to constantly do more and better quality work. At the same time, they are people who disarm you with the charm of their inner peace. They are bearers and creators of lofty moral values. Their attitude toward their duties is based on a blend of profound understanding of work duty, a clean conscience and lofty honor.

The labor and moral examples of such patriotic working people are our most tremendous asset, a wealth beyond value. The real way to shape the best qualities of the personality of a builder of communism is to insure mass emulation of them.

In our society we are all linked by strong threads of mutual rights and duties. The fruits of every man's hands and mind, however large or small the sector in which he works, serve to satisfy the material and spiritual needs of other people. And, on the other hand, the understanding of these vital dialectics and the ability to delve deeply into and be guided by the concerns and interests of one's collective, city and, ultimately, the entire country, embody a man's life stance and fill it with really lofty and noble moral content.

Take the sphere of municipal services, transport, trade and everyday life about whose quality and efficiency people are particularly sensitive and which, to put it bluntly, leaves much to be desired, particularly, as far as you are concerned, in the case of urban water supply and bus transport. [paragraph continues]

Soviets and enterprises and organization leaders must pay special attention to vital problems relating to technically equipping these sectors and improving the quality and standard of their work. At the same time, the standard of consumer services depends directly on the conscientiousness and attitude of each individual worker employed in this sphere. This sphere demonstrates more clearly than any other the very close connection between professionalism and moral qualities and the working person's understanding of labor under socialism as service to society and to people. The task is to educate all people in this spirit, stimulate ideological motives and strengthen the moral aspects of labor activity.

Comrades: In the fertile atmosphere of firm confidence in the future, the Soviet people are happy working in an inspired fashion to implement the socioeconomic program of the 5-year plan. They regard the future with optimism because they know and have learned from their own experience that the Leninist party is always with the people and for the people, shares their thoughts and feelings. It solves all problems--both current and long-term--on man's behalf and on behalf of the comprehensive development of his talents and gifts.

This is why the working people in the republic's cities and villages warmly and unanimously support the inviolable electoral bloc of communists and nonparty people tried and tested by decades of heroic struggle and selfless labor and wholly approve its deeply humane and truly noble political platform.

The invincible unity of party and people is a priceless asset and a great achievement of our society. And there is no socioeconomic task, no creative goal which would daunt their all-surmounting will. The forthcoming USSR Supreme Soviet elections will undoubtedly be yet another striking confirmation of the unshakable cohesion of the Soviet people around the CPSU, whose leading, directing and tireless revolutionary transforming activity is the guarantee of our future victories and gains and of the triumph of Marxist-Leninist teaching and communist ideals.

In conclusion permit me once again to express wholehearted and sincere thanks for your great trust and assure you, dear comrades, and all voters in the okrug that in my daily actions and all my practical work I will seek to fully justify this high honor.

Knowledge, experience and energy, all that is best in me, I will continue to devote in full to the service of the party and people and the tireless struggle for communism.

May you have good health, dear friends, total prosperity and happiness, lofty creative inspiration at all times and remarkable labor achievements for the good of our socialist homeland!

(Comrade P.M. Masherov's speech was listened to very closely and was repeatedly applauded)

When in Brest Comrade P.M. Masherov visited the XXV Syezd KPSS Order of the Labor Red Banner electrical engineering plant. In conversations with workers, technical engineering working people and enterprise leaders, he inquired about matters relating to scientific and technical progress, the growth of production efficiency and work quality, the improvement of output and the collective's labor and everyday conditions.

In the plant club USSR Supreme Soviet Candidate Deputy P.M. Masherov met with voters--working people at the plant.

In their speeches, the candidate deputy's agent P.N. Chechenya, secretary of the plant party committee; V.I. Pilipenko, fitters team leader; Yuliya Fadeyeva, installation worker; Plant Director V.A. Salnikov and other meeting participants talked about the general labor and political enthusiasm brought about by the CPSU Central Committee appeal to all voters and citizens of the USSR and about the collective's successes in competition for a fitting greeting to the USSR Supreme Soviet election day, in the struggle for the implementation of the 25th CPSU Congress decisions and the fulfillment of 10th 5-Year Plan targets.

Warmly greeted by the voters, P.M. Masherov delivered a speech.

Comrade P.M. Masherov also met with some other voters--troops at the Brest garrison.

Pelshe in Riga

LD161021 Riga SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA in Russian 21 Feb 79 pp 1-2 LD

[LATINFORM report providing apparent text of speech delivered by A. Ya. Pelshe, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, at 21 February USSR Supreme Soviet election meeting with the voters of Riga Korovskiy Electoral Okrug under general heading: "Under the Party's Wise Leadership"]

[Text] Dear Comrades!

Allow me to express to you and to all working people of this electoral okrug of Riga deep satisfaction and gratitude for the honor which has again been accorded to me--my nomination as USSR Supreme Soviet candidate deputy--and for the warm words addressed to me. With complete justification I interpret everything said here as an expression of nationwide trust in our party and as a high assessment of the activity of its Central Committee and Central Committee Politburo headed by Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, that loyal continuer of V.I. Lenin's cause and outstanding figure of the international communist and workers movement.

Outside the party, without its constant guiding influence, the role of each of us would not have been possible or in any way notable. Only under the party's leadership, only in its collective creative efforts do our personal efforts acquire definite significance. Dear comrades, I will give all my efforts, experience and ability to continue to justify by practical deeds your high trust and the trust of the party and people.

This is not the first time we have met in a situation like this, but I confess that with each new meeting I experience increasingly deep emotion, above all from understanding my growing responsibility. The rule that the greater the trust, the higher the responsibility is by no means an abstract, merely formal rule for us communists.

Like previous election campaigns, the present one has become a truly nationwide discussion of the results of our strenuous creative labor during the period since the previous elections and of the wonderful prospects opened up before our country. The CPSU Central Committee appeal to all USSR voters and citizens impressively reflects the great achievements of the party and people and our imposing plans for further creative work. In fulfilling the decisions of the 24th and 25th CPSU congresses and subsequent party Central Committee plenums, our people have taken a major new step forward along the path toward communism.

A profound understanding of our organic involvement in the successes and prosperity of the motherland and the growth of its economic and defense might serves as an inspiring impetus for each of us. All Soviet people warmly approve the domestic and foreign policy and election platform of Lenin's party and unanimously support the indestructible bloc of communists and nonparty people.

In the period under review on the eve of the 60th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, an event of epoch-making significance took place in our country. The new USSR Constitution was adopted, and soon after that the constitutions of the union republics.

The fundamental law of the USSR, the world's first state of all the people, enshrined the Soviet people's world-historic achievement--the building of a developed socialist society.

A gigantic production potential has been created in our country. The socialist economy, on whose firm basis the people's well-being is steadily growing and the security of the Soviet state is being reliably insured, has attained unprecedented heights.

The CPSU has paid and continues to pay unflagging attention to the development of socialist industry. In the 1974-1978 period some 1.4 times more industrial output was produced than in the previous 5-year period. It is important to note that about four-fifths of its entire growth was obtained by raising labor productivity. The sectors which determine the destiny of technical progress are developing at an accelerated tempo. The consolidation and expansion of the fuel and energy base and the creation of large-scale territorial-production complexes in the Urals, Siberia, the Far East and other parts of the country serve as a reliable guarantee of industry's long-term development.

Science is being asserted increasingly frequently as a production force in our country. It exerts a beneficial influence on all spheres of the economy and culture. Mathematicians, physicists, chemists, biologists and representatives of other branches of knowledge are making a worthy contribution to communist building. The whole world knows of our outstanding achievements in space flight.

The CPSU Central Committee and the Soviet Government display unremitting concern for the further development of agriculture. Its available power is increasing, and work is being done on land chemicalization and reclamation. In 1978, despite the great difficulties caused by the whims of the weather, the rural workers and the city dwellers who came to their aid won an unprecedented victory--a harvest of 235 million tons of grain was brought in for the first time in our country's history. A firm basis was created for the further development of stock raising.

Soviet people are well aware that for the CPSU and for our state there are no interests higher than the interests of the people and their welfare. Basing themselves on the successes in the development of the economy, the party and state have recently implemented a number of major social measures. Over the past 5 years real per capita incomes rose 20 percent. The average wages for workers and employees rose 19 percent and the remuneration of kolkhoz members rose 26 percent. Per capita payments from public consumption funds rose from R312 to R404 a year. Social insurance and pensions were further developed. Expenditure on these items increased over 40 percent in 1978 compared with 1973. The scale of temporary disability benefits rose.

The scale of housing construction in our country is eloquently borne out by the fact that during these years 54 million people received new accommodations. This is more than the population of a country like France. The network of hospitals, polyclinics, resorts, rest homes and rooming houses is expanding and physical culture and sports are being developed.

Culture has been raised to a new level. Works of literature and art asserting noble communist ideals and the principles of socialist humanism enjoy widespread popularity. Over 95 million people are now covered by all types of training in the country. What we could recently only dream of has become reality: Universal secondary education for young people has been introduced in our country.

Children--our future--are surrounded by the indefatigable concern of the party and state. This year, as is well known, has been declared by the United Nations the Year of the Child. We can now state to the whole world that only the socialist system creates the best conditions for children's education and health care. Not for nothing is it said that in our country there is only one privileged class--children. The network of day care centers and kindergartens, schools and pioneers' palaces is constantly growing. In the past 5 years over 55 million schoolchildren have vacationed in Pioneer camps. By the entire tenor of our life we are educating the younger generation in a spirit of high morality, love of their motherland, a respectful attitude toward other peoples and loyalty to the ideals of communism.

Whenever we speak of our country's successes as a whole, we turn to the achievements of its rayons, oblasts, krays and republics and note the steady improvement of their economic and social development level, naturally emphasizing that this is the result of CPSU's wise Leninist nationalities policy and graphic and convincing testimony to the life-giving ideas of Soviet patriotism and proletarian internationalism.

The country recently celebrated the 325th anniversary of the Ukraine's reunification with Russia. This historic event is of lasting significance for the destiny of our multinational motherland and for the assertion of the indestructible friendship of the Russian, Ukrainian and all other peoples of the Soviet Union.

The 60th anniversary of Soviet Latvia and the other Baltic republics--Lithuania and Estonia--was recently celebrated everywhere as a great nationwide holiday. The union of all nations and ethnic groups of our country and their cohesion around the CPSU and its Central Committee are a guarantee of new successes in the struggle for peace and progress.

Our achievements and gains are great. But, as you know, it is not in the nature of the CPSU or our people to be content with what has been achieved or to flatter themselves on their successes. The strength and invincibility of the CPSU and the point of departure for its efforts at each successive stage of economic and cultural building lie in constant self-critical verification and the sober, objective analysis of shortcomings and difficulties which arise. This was reaffirmed with new force at the CPSU Central Committee November (1978) Plenum and the subsequent USSR Supreme Soviet session. The plenum decision and the speech delivered by Comrade L.I. Brezhnev defined the most important avenues for the development of our economy and the improvement of the people's material and cultural standards and provided a scientifically substantiated reassessment of our real potential and indicated, with Bolshevik directness and principledness, what is delaying our advance.

The gunpowder of our criticism and self-criticism, so to speak, has always been and always is kept dry. The party sees clearly the errors and shortcomings, difficulties and unresolved problems. It must be noted that the demand for certain foods and industrial articles is still not being fully met. Measures are being taken to expand their range and improve their quality and to improve consumer services for the population.

Shortcomings must be eliminated in capital construction and the operation of transport, the regime of thrift must be strictly observed, the achievements of science and technology must be introduced more actively into production, and the experience of leading workers and innovators must be disseminated persistently.

Scientific and technical progress cannot be regarded as something which develops of its own accord. The work of scientific research institutes, laboratories and design bureaus is in need of considerable improvement. Their activity cannot be judged by the number of staff workers and the volume of report papers. We must proceed from the importance of their developments for production and the positive influence they exert on the improvement of manufacturing processes and manpower saving. Does the research underway promote technical progress or only create the semblance of such advance, does it meet present-day requirements or does it represent outdated science and technology--these are the questions to which clear answers must be found in assessing the activity of a scientific institution.

The party sees the key to the solution of the urgent problems of life in improving the work-style of party, soviet and economic organizations and in enhancing the efforts of every labor collective and Soviet person--communist, and nonparty person, trade union member and Komsomol member.

In this connection questions of improving management and organizational activity and insuring a strictly scientific, businesslike approach to the solution of practical tasks are coming to the fore as never before. In turn this naturally presupposes an improvement in the selection, placement and education of cadres in the spirit of unity of word and deed, purposefulness, initiative and consistency and the enhancement of personal responsibility for allotted work. Control and verification of execution must become keener and more effective. Imparting a truly mass nature, efficiency and a high degree of effectiveness to them everywhere is the duty of party and other social organizations and leaders at all levels.

Every Soviet person is indignant at the instances still encountered in some places of thriftlessness, irresponsibility and negligence entailing disruptions of plan targets and loss of valuable output. We can in no way tolerate this. Together we must resolutely halt everything which can and does harm our society and affect its economic and political interests.

I must tell you, comrades, that we in the Central Committee Party Control Committee which, as you know, examines questions connected with various shortcomings and violations of party and state discipline, can see particularly clearly that these and other negative phenomena are mostly the result of lack of control, conciliatoriness and weak or nonexistent criticism. The same opinion is voiced by the authors of letters--communists and nonparty people--who appeal to us in the party Control Committee. I want to tell you that the voters' letters sent to me as a deputy contain many proposals and also critical comments. Of course, at every alarm exhaustive steps are taken to eliminate the shortcomings revealed. Those who violate discipline or embark on a dishonest path, who are unconscientious and tolerate abuses, are made answerable.

Deviations from the norms of our life must also be regarded as definitely costly in terms of education work. This work requires a comprehensive approach and skillful use of all means of ideological-political, organizational, administrative and social influence. Much depends here on the purposeful work of all party, state and public organizations. As emerges from the USSR Constitution and entire Soviet way of life, which is imbued with a spirit of collectivism,this is a subject for the concern of every communist and every Soviet person.

The full and real nature of Soviet citizens' rights and freedoms are combined with their duties and responsibility toward society. This makes their life stance not a passive one of waiting and seeing but a purposeful one, one of belligerence in all cases where different social anomalies come within the Soviet person's purview, when he encounters antipodes of Communist morality.

Our Constitution, L.I. Brezhnev has stressed, "must be implemented and will be implemented in all its sections. It must and will become a powerful means for the further development and intensification of socialist democracy."

The advantages of socialist democracy over bourgeois democracy are indisputable. They are obvious just from the fact that democracy there remains democracy for the rich and only creates illusions of extending to the working masses. But even these illusions are dispelled, since what is built on lies and hypocrisy cannot acquire any lasting stability. Indeed, what freedoms can there really be in a society where man's exploitation of man is promoted to the rank of a law, where working people's elementary rights are flouted, police and official tyranny reigns and living costs and chronic unemployment are growing uncontrollably; in general, all the "pleasures" known to people of the older generation who lived in bourgeois Latvia.

It is amazing to see the political garbage into which the bourgeois ideologists will burrow to find their slanderous fabrications about socialism and to stoke the campaign about "human rights" in the socialist countries. Indeed, cynicism and unscrupulousness in their means of ideological struggle have always been characteristic of capitalism's hired servants, who defend a society of social injustice devoid of moral foundations and without a future.

Following Lenin's behests, our party has done and continues to do everything to insure that Soviet citizens not only have a good knowledge of their rights and freedoms and the ways and means of exercising them but also use those rights and freedoms skillfully and fulfill their duties correctly in the interests of communist building. To help to develop a high political standard in every citizen and to raise still higher his social activeness and his implacability toward everything obsolete and disadvantageous means making still fuller use of the spiritual potential of developed socialism and making even weightier each person's contribution to the exercise of the people's power, the management of the affairs of society and the state and the steady upsurge of the economy and culture.

Comrades!

Allow me to touch on some questions relating to the life of the Latvian SSR. I need scarcely explain why special feelings are aroused in me when the talk turns to Latvia and the achievements of its people in the fraternal family of all Soviet peoples.

Allow me to take advantage of this meeting to congratulate you and all the republic's working people once again on this notable date and to wish you great successes for the sake of new victories on the path of building communism.

"In the postwar period," the CPSU Central Committee greetings on the 60th anniversary of the establishment of Soviet power in Latvia says, "an imposing program of socio-economic and political transformations was rapidly implemented in Soviet Latvia with the selfless aid of all the country's fraternal republics. Latvia, formerly dependent on the imperialist powers, has become, in Soviet times, a republic with a highly developed industry and advanced science and culture."

A few indicators would be enough to confirm this proposition. In 1978 some 42 times more industrial output was produced than in 1940 in bourgeois Latvia. The overall volume of metal-working and machine-building enterprises' output over the same period increased 515 times. The indicators in the social sphere, in science, culture and everything by which our flourishing republic lives are just as eloquent. It is not only a case of quantitative indicators. Radical qualitative changes have also taken place. Promising sectors like the electrical equipment, radio engineering, electronics and medical industries and power and transport machine building are developing most successfully and rapidly.

Decisive significance for the growth of the economy is to be found in the fact that 95 percent of fuel requirements, 86 percent of metal requirements, 88 percent of raw material requirements for the petrochemical industry, and 78 percent of electricity requirements are satisfied by imports from the other union republics. The output supplied from other union republics for Latvia's national economy totals over 140,000 different sorts of items.

In turn, Soviet Latvia supplies all corners of the country with rail and tram cars, diesel and electric trains, radio and telephone apparatus, motorcycles, washing machines, furniture, agricultural equipment and many light and food industry goods.

Coming to the USSR Supreme Soviet elections the republic's party, soviet and economic organs have analyzed the results achieved by industry during the years since the last elections to the country's supreme organ of power in 1974.

These results are to the credit of the working class, technical intelligentsia, science workers, production commanders, party, soviet and public organizations--all those who have contributed to insuring the rapid growth of industrial production and the improvement of its qualitative structure.

Here are convincing figures. The national economy's fixed production capital has increased by R3.4 billion over this period while social labor productivity has increased 19 percent. It is precisely by this means that 83 percent of the increase in the national income was insured.

The republic's working people take legitimate pride in the capacities commissioned at the No 2 TETs, the "Radiotekhnika" and "Rigas Apgerbs" production associations, the "Straume" plant, the diesel motor and electrical-machinery plants, the Bolderaya woodworking combine and the Livany house construction combine.

It is important to note that the efforts of the labor and scientific collectives have been concentrated on accelerating the development of the sectors which determine the tempo of scientific and technical progress. Thus, the generation of electricity has more than doubled compared with 1973. Over the same period chemical and petrochemical industry, machine building and metal working output increased 1.5 times.

The workers of Soviet Latvia treated with a sense of great responsibility the fulfillment of the instructions of the 25th CPSU Congress on the need for a considerable increase in the production of high-quality microbuses, radio sets and radio-record players. In 1978 almost 12,000 microbuses were produced, or 3 times more than in 1973, and seven modifications of the buses have been developed for the 1980 Olympics.

Traditional sectors of Latvian industry such as the light, food, fish and woodworking industries have increased their output. Kolkhoz fishermen have fulfilled the plan targets for the first 3 years of the 5-year plan ahead of schedule, by the first anniversary of the USSR Constitution. The workers of the automotive, maritime, and air transport and trade and consumer services sphere are coping successfully with the plan targets.

The efforts aimed at seeking ways of further enhancing social production efficiency, stepping up the regime of thrift and improving the quality of the output have borne fruit. While recently only a few hundred articles were produced with the state seal of quality, now over 2,000 such articles are produced.

An enumeration of production indicators would obviously be of no great interest if we did not know that everything created by Soviet people's labor belongs to them and is directed toward the satisfaction of their needs and the improvement of their life.

The economy is growing--the population's incomes are growing, more goods are coming into the stores, housing is becoming more spacious, brighter and better appointed. It was pleasant to learn that over the past 5 years 5.1 million square meters of housing have been commissioned. Retail trade and the volume of consumer services have grown noticeably. The population of Soviet Latvia is now among the highest-ranked with respect to possession of consumer durables, above all goods like television sets and radios, refrigerators, washing machines, passenger cars and motorcycles.

Some 47,000 students are studying in 10 VUZes, which in terms of the number of students per 10,000 of the population greatly exceeds the figures for countries like Denmark, Sweden and Finland. Considerable successes have been achieved in the sphere of health care. The network of sanatoriums and rest homes is expanding. The city of Yurmala has become a major all-union health resort.

The rural workers of the Latvian SSR, as of all the other union republics, are persistently pursuing the party's agrarian policy elaborated by the CPSU Central Committee March (1965) Plenum. They rely on ever-growing material and technical aid from the Soviet state, on the best possible organization of labor and on the achievements of science. In the past 5 years the machine operators have received 20,600 tractors, 13,800 trucks and specialized motor vehicles, 8,640 combines and a great deal of other equipment. About 7 million tons of mineral fertilizers were received, which made it possible to double their application in 1978 compared with 1965.

The state does not spare funds for land reclamation. Every year 80,000-90,000 hectares are drained, which is more than the indicators for the entire 20 years of bourgeois economic management in Latvia. Thanks to the consolidation of agriculture's material and technical base, average annual gross agricultural output obtained in 1976-1978 increased 46 percent and stockraising output increased 52 percent compared with the average production in 1961-1965. Grain crop yield increased 2.1 times.

From 1974 through 1978 labor productivity in social agricultural production increased 16 percent. The incomes of the kolkhozes are growing, and that means that people's work payment is increasing. The joint income of a kolkhoz family has risen 1.6 times over the past 10 years.

These indicators cannot fail to please us. But statistics are a strict and incorruptible science, they not only attest dispassionately and objectively to what is pleasant to hear but also put us in a critical frame of mind, recalling on each occasion the popular saying that a bitter truth is better than a sweet lie.

Behind the overall agricultural production growth we cannot fail to see unused or underused opportunities for achieving higher indicators. And these opportunities do exist. Let us take meat production in terms of carcass weight on the kolkhozes and sovkhozes, interfarm enterprises and other state farms. Its average growth in 1976-1978 was 260 percent compared with the average annual production in 1961-1965, and is above the all-union indicator. What more is wanted, it might seem? This did not come simply! But who would venture to argue that this indicator is a limit? There is an enormous reserve just in raising the yield of fodder crops, not to mention other opportunities.

With respect to a number of indicators the republic's agriculture lags somewhat behind its neighbors. We must examine the reasons why, and not be tempted to search only for objective reasons. Of course, they have existed, particularly if you bear in mind the natural disaster which descended on the republic in the last year. This complicated the execution of agricultural work and led to a certain reduction in the livestock population and its productivity. The agricultural workers pitted their composure, ability, courage and, I would say, heroism against the blind elemental forces and thus prevented even greater losses. But for the sake of truth let us note first that the whims of nature have affected everyone recently and, second, that it is a case of indicators covering many years, when weather conditions were favorable as well. That means that there are also reasons of a subjective nature rooted in the organization of work: after all, much depends on people, on their persistence and their ability to organize work in an exemplary fashion and achieve the most efficient utilization of equipment, fertilizers, and the attainments of agrochemical and livestock management science.

The leaders of the republic tell us that the party, soviet, economic and public organizations, specialists and leading production workers and labor collectives are doing everything to implement as fully as possible the enormous and, let me say, frankly difficult tasks set by the CPSU Central Committee July and November (1978) Plenums.

We cannot fail to note that the measures which are being elaborated in our republic are of a profoundly conceived specific nature. They determine what must be undertaken in all echelons--from the smallest farm to projects on a republican scale. And all these are not concerns of the remote future but of the present day. It is important to organize work in stock raising in such a way as to lose no time but to obtain with every passing day the maximum increase in output on every farmstead, fattening unit, complex and farm.

Naturally the main efforts are channeled into raising the efficiency of social public agricultural production, which is the main supplier of meat, milk, eggs, butter and fats. The question is now put as follows: Every kolkhoz and sovkhoz must increase the sale of basic commodity output and, irrespective of the direction of its specialization, must raise pigs and other livestock and poultry, have a dairy farm, meet its own needs for livestock products and take an active part in swelling the statewide meat and milk stocks.

Everyone knows that increasing the average weight of livestock sold to the state is a real reserve for increasing meat production. Latvia's kolkhozes, sovkhozes and other state farms increased the average weight of cattle to 393 kg in 1976-1978. This would appear not to be bad. But are there grounds for complacency? In Estonia and Lithuania, which began in the early sixties at the same point as we, now sell livestock which weighs more--431 and 426 kg respectively. So there is food for thought here for our republic's agricultural workers.

The CPSU Central Committee and Soviet Government believe that the auxiliary farms or plants, factories, organizations and institutions can play a considerable part in improving the provision of meat, milk and other products to the workers' and employees' collectives. It is merely necessary for the party, soviet and agricultural organs to render them more active aid in organizational questions, material and technical supply, the acquisition of young stock and pountry, allocation and organization of the production of fodder and so forth.

Considerable reserves are concealed in private auxiliary plots. A feeling for the economical utilization of everything which can be put to use--raising a pig or a hen, breeding a good cow--is inherent in the rural worker as in no one else. Sometimes he cannot understand how, for instance, the land around a house or elsewhere can remain uncultivated, how he can allow uncut grass somewhere to dry out, how food scraps can be thrown out to no purpose. Nor can we fail to note one further feature: He who works well in social production also manages his private plot zealously through force of habit.

There are adequate grounds for not standing aloof from the undesirable process of decline in the livestock population on the population's private auxiliary plots.

There is no doubt that the party and soviet organizations and all agricultural workers, on the basis of the successes they have achieved and using their diverse potential, will achieve a sharp increase in output.

The CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers are now rendering substantial aid to the republic in strengthening the material base of its agriculture. This is already beginning to have a beneficial effect on, for instance, increasing the livestock and above all the pig population.

The results of last year's natural disaster and the difficulties which have arisen recently will undoubtedly be overcome and the population's supply of meat and other foods will return to normal.

Comrades!

Matters on a republican scale, so to speak, have been discussed above. But as your deputy it would be unjustifiable for me to keep quiet about my electoral okrug--Kirovskiy Rayon. You sometimes hear people saying that it is not a very industrial or very developing rayon. Perhaps this is so, inasmuch as the rayon is in the city center.

Nevertheless, there are no grounds for belittling its role. I have asked for certain figures and have been convinced that the Kirovskiy Rayon people have not sullied their reputations, so to speak, and are working no worse than those in distinguished rayons.

Let us turn to the facts. The production targets for the third year of the 5-year plan were fulfilled ahead of schedule. Above-plan output worth R2.8 million has been produced. The entire increase in production volumes has been insured by raising labor productivity. [paragraph continues]

The Rostov people's initiative--"not a single laggard in the struggle for efficiency and quality"--has been introduced at 12 industrial enterprises. In 3 years the construction workers have commissioned a series of complex installations including the Moskovskiy Bridge spanning the Daugava, three blocks of the Riga TETs, a complex of sewage installations on the Daugave, an administration and production complex for the "Rigas Apgerbs" association and others.

Whereas 5 years ago the teams working by the method of Hero of Socialist Labor N. Zlobin could be counted in single figures, there are now 55 teams working on contract principles.

The collectives of the "Balttransstroy" and power construction trusts, the "Sputnik" production association, the "Maksla" applied art combine, the Baltic installation administration of the "Sevzapenergomontazh" trust and the Latvian river shipping line coped with their a targets ahead of schedule.

In fulfilling the tasks set by the 25th CPSU Congress and in Comrade L.I. Brezhnev's speeches, the party organizations and labor collectives are striving to increase industrial production efficiency and improve output quality. Over 5,000 workers, engineering and technical workers and employees took part in the public survey held under the slogan "The Initiative and Creativity of Every Person Must be Given to the 5-Year Plan of Efficiency and Quality!" During the survey rationalizing proposals were introduced giving a saving of R2.5 million. The proportion of articles with the state seal of quality has increased.

The party raykom and rayon soviets have paid considerable attention to the rayon's municipal services and the improvement of services for the population. A new secondary school training building has been commissioned. The railroad workers' Palace of Culture, 10 public catering enterprises and 7 stores have been opened.

In the past 4 years 1,336 families have received new apartments. About R12 million have been spent on the repair of available housing and on converting heating networks to gas. The old wooden housing on the Ulitsa Lenina have been demolished, Bastionnaya Hill and the Ploshchad Gosudarstvennoy Filarmonii have been modernized and a comprehensive plan for municipal services for old Riga has been elaborated and is being implemented.

The Kirovskiy Rayon working people are struggling persistently for the fulfillment and overfulfillment of the targets and socialist pledges for 1979 and the 5-year plan as a whole and are giving all their efforts, knowledge and creative energy to the implementation of the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress.

The large collective of workers of the trade, public catering and cultural and consumer services enterprises are taking an active part in competition to turn Riga into a city with exemplary services for the population.

A numerous detachment of the creative intelligentsia is laboring in Kirovskiy Rayon. Preparation for the 60th anniversary of Great October, the adoption of the fundamental law of our state--the USSR Constitution--and the 60th anniversary of the establishment of Soviet power in Latvia, and the jubilee of the Komsomol were marked by new works of art and theater productions reflecting the heroic pages of our motherland's history and the imposing achievements of the present day.

The scientific research and planning institutes and a number of design organizations in the rayon have achieved a reduction in the estimated cost of construction and the prime cost of output produced by various sectors of the national economy by improving the quality of engineering work and introducing inventions and rationalizing proposals. A considerable saving in metal, cement and timber materials has been achieved here. The "Teploelektroroyekt," "Latgiprovodkhoz," "Latgiproselstroy" and "Latgiproprom" institutes have been the most successful.

As you know, major VUZes are concentrated in your rayon. Their professorial and teaching staff, as well as training highly qualified specialists, performs a large amount of scientific research work in the interests of improving material production. In the 1976-1977 training year alone the Latvian state university introduced into the republic's national economy developments producing a saving of R3.08 million. This was a fitting gift for the October jubilee and the 60th anniversary of the university itself.

The Riga polytechnical institute, in which scientific schools in the fields of instrument building, polymer compounds, silicon technology, power engineering and cybernetics technology have been formed and have won widespread recognition, carries out active scientific and scientific-technical research.

The scientists of Riga's other institutes and above all of the republic's scientific center--the Academy of Sciences--are working just as fruitfully. Over the last 3 years the scientists of the republic's Academy of Sciences have introduced over 150 scientific developments into practice and concluded 6 license agreements with foreign firms. The institute of polymer mechanics is successfully conducting research into the strength and rigidity of polymer compound materials. The institute of microbiology has worked out the theory of the microbiological synthesis of an amino-acid--lysene--which increases livestock productivity. A new industry--the microbiological industry--has emerged in the republic on the basis of the results of this research. This can serve as a graphic example of the scientific collective's fulfillment of its main aim.

The conclusion of contracts between scientific institutions and enterprises on scientific and technical cooperation, the creation, for the introduction period, of mixed teams made up of production workers and scientists, are becoming particularly valuable. Targeted-program planning of scientific research and the creation of sector laboratories financed by enterprises are being put on the agenda. This will undoubtedly enhance the efficiency of research and accelerate the introduction of scientific developments. We must persistently continue the tireless search for ways to reduce the scientific development-introduction into production cycle. The main efforts of science and production workers will be concentrated here.

Comrades!

The prospects and tasks of communist building in our country are organically linked with the problem of the struggle for peace and the peoples' security throughout the world.

From Lenin's Decree on Peace to our day, Soviet foreign policy has aimed at insuring universal peace and international cooperation and the peoples' freedom and independence. The Soviet Union's peace program, reflected in detail in the decisions of the 24th and 25th CPSU congresses and in the speeches and works of Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, is being consistently implemented and is being approved by all progressive forces of the planet.

We cannot fail to be pleased by the results of the efforts of the CPSU and the Soviet state to strengthen the security of our motherland and all freedom-loving peoples. Our country's international situation is firmer than ever.

The constructive proposals advanced by the Soviet Union and aimed at consolidating universal peace, deepening detente, halting the arms race and achieving disarmament, and asserting the principles of the peaceful coexistence of states with different social systems have produced a less chilly climate in the world.

The CPSU persistently and purposefully develops relations with the fraternal parties and promotes the strengthening of the international communist and workers movement's unity on the principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism. It advocates the broad international cooperation and the rallying of all revolutionary and progressive forces of the day.

The conferences of the Warsaw Pact states' Political Consultative Committee and the Crimea meetings among the leaders of the fraternal parties and states have been major milestones in further strengthening the socialist community.

The victory of the heroic people of Vietnam was an event of historic significance. The people of Laos have joined the family of socialist states. The struggle of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America, who are upholding their freedom and independence, is being stepped up. Angola, Ethiopia, Afghanistan and Kampuchea have embarked on the path of revolutionary-domestic transformations. The powerful antishah, anti-imperialist movement in Iran has achieved victory.

The USSR resolutely opposes the plans of the reactionary imperialist forces and Beijing hegemonists who are striving to hinder the easing of international tension. The enemies of peace, we are convinced, are not abandoning their attempts to poison the international atmosphere. China's recent aggression against Socialist Vietnam is an example of this. The present Beijing leaders had previously also pursued a policy of pressure and blackmail with respect to Vietnam and the other Southeast Asian countries. But now, even those who questioned the true aims of Beijing's hegemonist policy have been convinced of how unceremoniously, irresponsibly and flagrantly it violates international law and UN principles by encroaching on the peoples' freedom, sovereignty and independence.

As is well known, the Soviet Government has released a firm and reasoned statement containing a serious warning about the present Chinese rulers' responsibility for their criminal actions. The Soviet Union will fulfill the commitments it assumed under the treaty of friendship and cooperation between the USSR and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Nor is there any doubt that all the socialist community countries and all peace-loving progressive forces will be on Vietnam's side and will render it all-round support and aid. This is not the first time that the people of heroic Vietnam have had to defend their freedom and independence. They have won glorious victories. And this time too the aggressor will meet with a fitting rebuff. All the Soviet people support Vietnam's just cause and state resolutely: "Hands off Socialist Vietnam!"

While consistently pursuing a peace-loving foreign policy, the CPSU and the Soviet state at the same time pay unremitting attention to strengthening the defense might of the country and of its heroic armed forces. We can rest assured that the valiant army and navy servicemen will continue to worthily fulfill their patriotic and international duty, to raise their combat readiness by every means, and to stand vigilant guard over the revolutionary gains of socialism.

Comrades!

The forthcoming USSR Supreme Soviet elections will take place in our country under the sign of the mobilization of all forces and reserves for the successful fulfillment of the state plan for the development of the national economy for 1979 and the 5-year plan as a whole.

Our task is to make this a year of shock labor, developing nationwide socialist competition still more extensively and making the maximum use of existing reserves, subordinating them to the interests of the party's economic strategy--which means insuring the further improvement of production efficiency and work quality, the steady upsurge of all sectors of the national economy, the fuller satisfaction of Soviet people's material and cultural requirements and the further consolidation of our motherland's economic might.

It is important to steadily improve the standard of organization and discipline, make fuller use of fixed production capital, save raw material, materials and fuel and energy resources, and actively develop the movement under the slogan "Work Without Laggards!" We must struggle resolutely against shortcomings, thriftlessness and extravagance and be persistent in overcoming existing difficulties.

Earlier I cited figures relating to the tremendous growth of labor productivity in Soviet Latvia's industrial construction and agriculture and I spoke of its achievements in the cultural sphere. All this is to the credit of the communist and nonparty people and the urban and rural workers, particularly those who march in the front ranks of socialist competition and who by their skill and self-sacrifice carry others along.

I admit that I very much wanted to cite their names, but the task was too much for me: The list of the best of them is literally inexhaustible.

All those who generously give their efforts, knowledge and ability to the motherland are worthy of its great thanks. I wholeheartedly congratulate you, comrades, and all workers on the successes you have achieved and I wholeheartedly wish you health, happiness and new creative successes.

Under the CPSU's leadership we have traveled a glorious path of struggle and victories. Under its wise leadership we are advancing further. There is no doubt that the present election campaign will strengthen and intensify still further the great unity of the party and people, its cohesion around the Leninist Central Committee, and its unswerving determination to follow the CPSU's general course.

Allow me, dear comrades, to thank you wholeheartedly once again for the trust you have placed in me and to assure you that I will give all my efforts, experience and ability to our common cause.

(Comrade A. Ya. Pelshe's speech was listened to with great attention and frequently interrupted by applause.)